

Improving Board Leadership

Governance services for the arts in the North of England

Delivered by
Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
Developed in association with Business in the Arts: North West and Arts
Council England

This programme provides practical, relevant and time-effective services to support improvements in governance and board performance. Informed by an initial survey (2013) to establish current benchmarks around governance standards, **Improving Board Leadership** is designed to share best practice in governance, through a number of services from which you can choose and in a way that is tailored to your circumstances.

Costs are tiered in relation to an organisation's turnover to make them accessible to organisations of all sizes.

“ACE recognises the importance of good governance and the impact this can have on the resilience and stability of organisations.”
Sarah Maxfield, Area Director North, Arts Council England



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Services available under the Improving **Board Leadership** Programme:

Board Assessment

Board Assessment is a bespoke service for arts organisations, developed by leading experts, to assess the effectiveness of their board. In a challenging and changing economic climate, board effectiveness is vital to the successful performance and sustainability of an organisation.

This service provides an external and independent analysis of how your board currently operates.

Benefits

- Findings and recommendations will be presented in one easily digestible document including suggested actions for improvement and a review process to help boards to continue to improve.
- The process will take into account the size of an organisation; the views of everyone involved and the capacity of an organisation to introduce change.
- An opportunity to ensure your governance practices are up to the standard expected by funding bodies, partners and local authorities.

Costs from £150 + Vat

Strategy Development Session

Strategy Development Sessions are designed to support Board Members and senior staff to review their direction and strategy and consider how a future vision can be achieved. They have been especially designed to support small / medium sized organisations.

Why is it important?

- Significant market changes are bringing both challenges and opportunities.
- The need to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience and sustainability.
- It is good practice to re-evaluate strategy in a changing environment.

These bespoke facilitated sessions will be informed by thorough preparation work and cover the following:

- Where are we now? What has changed?
- Scenario planning. Do the current organisational ambitions still make sense?
- Do we need a different vision?
- Identify factors of success and the risks involved
- What are the implications for the organisation and for the board?

At the end of the session the board should have re-evaluated its position and future vision and be able to conduct a review of the organisation and how it needs to operate going forwards.

Costs from £250 + Vat

Board Development

"A good board is a victory, not a gift" Cyril Houle

Board Development sessions are a full day whole board session designed in response to the needs of each organisation identified through detailed preparation and agreed with the Chair and CEO.

The themes below are some of the areas your board may want to explore:

- The strategic role of the Board
- Policy, planning and risk management
- Financial responsibilities
- Legal responsibilities
- Effective board meetings
- Advocacy and influencing
- The Board and artistic issues
- The Board as employer
- Board review

A materials pack will be provided for each attender and the organisation will receive a list of actions emerging from the day that will take the board improvement process forwards.

Costs from £250 + Vat

Ellie Turner, Principal Advisor, Culture

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